

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CPR-01 A-01 SAJ-01 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 INSE-00 /075 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5617

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: EXIT/RE-ENTRY POINT REFUSALS AND EMBASSY TRAVEL

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 7604 (B) MOSCOW 6834 (C) MOSCOW 8000
(D) STATE 131447 (E) STATE 213369 (F) MOSCOW 12437

1. THE ISSUE TO EXIT/RE-ENTRY POINTS FOR THE SOVIET UNION HAS ONCE MORE BECOME A CONTENTIOUS ONE IN THE EMBASSY'S DEALINGS WITH THE CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION OF MFA.

2. ON OCTOBER 6 PASSPORTS OF FIRST SECRETARY AND MRS. SMITH AND FIRST SECRETARY JOHNSON WERE SUBMITTED TO MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION FOR TRAVEL TO MONGOLIA WITH REQUEST FOR EXIT FROM THE USSR, BY RAIL, VIA NAUSHKI, BURYAT ASSR, ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 18-19 AND RE-ENTRY, BY AIR, VIA IRKUTSK, ON OCTOBER 23. ON OCTOBER 8 STEPANOV OF CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION ADVISED EMBASSY CONSULAR COUNSELOR GROSS THAT THESE REQUESTS FOR EXIT AND RE-ENTRY HAS BEEN REFUSED AS THE UNITED STATES HAS LIMITED SOVIET DIPLOMATIC ENTRY INTO THE U.S. THIS ACTION EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED ANY
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TRAVEL TO MONGOLIA BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL DESPITE MONGOLIAN

GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT THAT SUCH TRAVEL COULD BE MADE. CONSULAR COUNSELOR GROSS, IN OCTOBER 9 MEETING AT MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION, STRESSED THIS POINT WHEREUPON STEPANOV ALLOWED EXIT AND RE-ENTRY, BY AIR ONLY, VIA IRKUTSK WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF THE EMBASSY REQUESTED (A) AN EXEPTION TO THE NPXJNL#EXIT/RE-ENTRY POINTS, AND (B) THE EMBOFFS APPLIED FOR THEIR RE-ENTRY VISAS AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN ULAN BATOR. (FYI: SWEDISH EMBOFFS HAVE RECEIVED EXIT AND RE-ENTRY VISAS FOR MONGOLIA VIA NAUSHKI BY RAIL FOR OCTOBER 20. END FYI).

3. ON OCTOBER 3 FIRST SECRETARY GRAVES AND WIFE SUBMITTED PASSPORTS TO MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION FOR EXIT/RE-ENTRY VISAS FOR IRAN VIA DZHUL'FA-SOVETSKAYA, BY RAIL, FOR OCTOBER 16 AND 26 RESPECTIVELY. ON OCTOBER 6 STEPENOV INFORMED GROSS THAT "IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE" TO GRANT THE VISAS. (FYI: FINNISH EMBASSY RECENTLY COMPLETED TRAVEL TO IRAN VIA DZHUL'FA-SOVETSKAYA BY RAIL. FRENCH EMBOFFS ALSO TRAVELED BY RAIL, TO TURKEY, VIA LENINAKAN. END FYI).

4. EMBASSY TRAVEL TO AND FROM POLAND AND THE GDR VIA BREST REMAINS AS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS (A,B,C). EXIT VISAS MUST BE REQUESTED FROM MFA 3-5 WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO TRAVEL; RE-ENTRY VISA VIA BREST MUST BE APPLIED FOR ABROAD. TRANSIT VISAS FOR POLAND AND EAST GERMANY ALSO MUST BE REQUESTED 3-5 WORKING DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE. VISAS TO VISIT EITHER COUNTRY THOUGH REQUIRE THREE WEEKS PRIOR SUBMISSION.

5. WHILE CAB ACTION ON AEROFLOT CHARTERS (REFTEL F) SEEMS TO HAVE RESULTED OPERATIONALLY IN A MORE NEGATIVE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR EXIT/RE-ENTRY VIA OTHER THAN THE USUAL POINTS AND REDUCED U.S. LEVERAGE IN NEGOTIATING FOR ADDITIONAL POINTS PROPOSED IN REFTELS (D AND E), THE EMBASSY FEELS THE SOVIETS SHOULD BE MADE TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS. THEREFORE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS SEEKING ENTRY VIA OTHER THAN THE STANDARD ENTRY POINTS (A) BE MADE TO APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR AN EXCEPTION AND (B) REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS BE ALTERED OR REFUSED ALONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE LINES OF 2 AND 3 ABOVE.

6. ON OCTOBER 9 MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION NOTIFIED EMBASSY TRAVEL OFFICER THAT GRAVES TRAVEL TO THE THREE TRANSCAUCASIAN CAPITALS COULD BE REGISTERED BY AIR ONLY (TRAVEL BY TRAIN FROM BAKU TO TBILISI HAD BEEN REQUESTED). SIMILARLY SMITH AND JOHNSON TRAVEL TO MONGOLIA VIA NOVOSIBIRSK AND IRKUTSK WAS APPROVED BY AIR ONLY

(RAIL TRAVEL NOVOSIBIRSK TO IRKUTSK HAD BEEN REQUESTED).
WHEN PRESSED FOR THE RATIONALE FOR THESE DECISIONS,
PROTOCOL OFFICER REPORTED HE WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER.
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS SIMILAR TRAVEL ALTERNATION IN
U.S. FOR SOVIET EMBOFFS.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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